

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5-7 are independent and hereby amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT IN SPECIFICATION

Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically at paragraphs [0248]-[0250] and Figs. 25, 26 and 35 of Applicants' corresponding published application. By way of example and not limitation:

[0248] Before actually presetting the most desired TV program for unattended recording, the user may wish to know what TV programs are available on various channels in the same time slot. In that case, the user may first select the start time of the currently chosen program in the TV program list of FIG. 25, get the drop-down list box 293 of FIG. 26 displayed, and select the "Time-slot TV program table" item. This will cause a table 335 of TV programs in the designated time slot to appear as shown in FIG. 35.

[0249] The TV program recording preset program 83 under control of the I/O control program 82 accepts input of the user-selected start time of the desired TV program. Whereas the user selects a TV program start time, the TV program recording preset program 83 extracts the start and end times, not the user-selected time, of the TV program in question from the TV program list memory 91 and retrieves accordingly the information about all TV programs to be broadcast between the extracted start and end times in order to create the table 335 of TV programs in the designated time slot shown in FIG. 35. The TV program table thus created is output under control of the I/O control program 82 to the display unit 31 for display.

[0250] In the TV program list of FIG. 25 or in the table 335 of TV programs in the specified time slot in FIG. 35, the user can select the desired TV program and preset its unattended recording using the personal computer 9.

FIG. 25

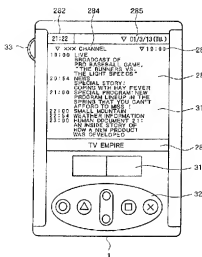


FIG. 26

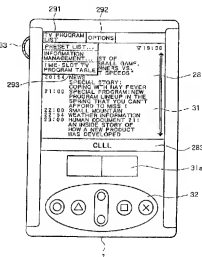
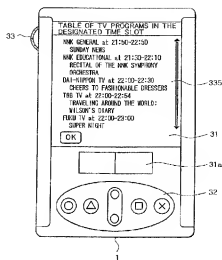


FIG. 35



III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 6 and 7 are hereby amended, thereby obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,870,570 to Bowser (hereinafter, merely “Bowser”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0011373 to Inoue (hereinafter, merely “Inoue”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,971 to Oral (hereinafter, merely “Oral”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,041 to Knudson, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Knudson”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,268,849 to Boyer et al. (hereinafter, merely “Boyer”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

...retrieving means which, based on the start time and the end time extracted by said extracting means, retrieves other program

information about programs to be broadcast in a time slot between the start time and the end time,

wherein the retrieving means creates a table listing information about each program to be broadcast in the time slot..... (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Boyer relates to techniques for providing television program guide information and services with embedded real-time data to a user over the Internet.

Applicants submit that neither Bowser nor Inoue nor Oral nor Knudson nor Boyer, taken alone or in combination, would disclose or render predictable the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, none of the references used as a basis for rejection discloses or renders predictable “retrieving means which, based on the start time and the end time extracted by said extracting means, retrieves other program information about programs to be broadcast in a time slot between the start time and the end time, wherein **the retrieving means creates a table listing information about each program to be broadcast in the time slot,**” as recited in claim 1.

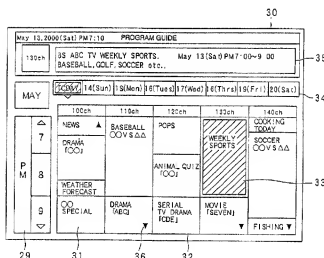
Specifically, the Office Action (see page 4) concedes that Bowser does not disclose retrieving means which, based on the start time and the end time extracted by said extracting means, retrieves other program information about programs to be broadcast in a time slot between the start time and the end time, but asserts that Inoue discloses above mentioned features, and refers to Inoue, paragraphs [0100] and [0115]. Thus, Inoue, paragraphs [0100], [0115] and Fig. 3 are reproduced as follows:

[0100] In this manner, by constituting the receiving apparatus 1 such that the program table from AM 00:00 on the day-of-week after the change is displayed when the day-of-week is changed, it is possible for the user to view the program on that day in the order

of time from the first program. In contrast to this, after the change of the day-of-week, the program table for the time band same as before the change may be displayed. In this case, since the time band of the program table displayed after the change depends on the time band at the time of instructing the change of the day-of-week, it is difficult for the user to instinctively grasp the time band after the change. From this point of view, by always displaying the program table from a predetermined time after the change, since the program table is always displayed from the predetermine time after the change regardless of the time band before the change of the day-of-week, it is easy for the user to instinctively grasp the time band of the displayed program table and thereby search for the program.

[0115] Then, the EPG display data for 8 days from today i.e., the day of currently viewing the program is obtained as the data for the day-of-week cells of the day-of-week EPG, on the basis of the date and time data and the day-of-week data determined in the above mentioned manner (step S8). As described before, the EPG text data are stored in the RAM 16, which have been made of the all stations SI as the source. Thus, the CPU 17 obtains the corresponding data within the RAM 16, and combines it with the font data within the ROM 15 and the graphic data within the flash memory 14, to thereby constitute the EPG display data and store it into the working memory. The EPG display data constituted in this manner schematically becomes as the image shown in FIG. 4.

FIG. 3



Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Inoue that teaches creating a table listing information about **each program to be broadcast in the designated time slot** between the start time and the end time. Thus, Inoue fails to disclose or render predictable “retrieving means which, based on the start time and the end time extracted by said extracting means, retrieves other program information about programs to be broadcast in a time slot between the start time and the end time, wherein **the retrieving means creates a table listing information about each program to be broadcast in the time slot,**” as recited in claim 1

Furthermore, this deficiency of Inoue is not cured by the supplemental teaching of Bowser or Oral or Knudson or Boyer.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 5-7 are also patentable, and Applicants thus respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections thereto.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Applicants thereby respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections thereto. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.


In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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